

# Coastal Weddings

## 2023

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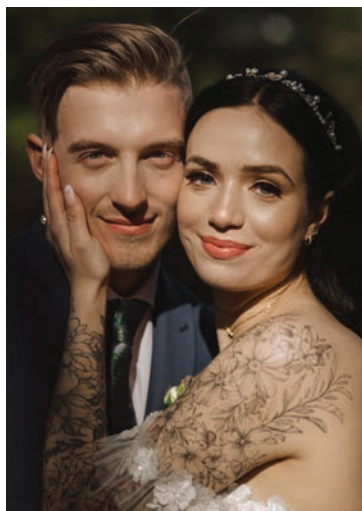
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*a division of Glacier Media Group*

5845 Wharf Avenue, Sechelt V0N 3A0  
www.coastreporter.net  
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# Celebrate your Love

There's no place to celebrate your love like the Sunshine Coast. How many places in the world can one get married on the beach and have a reception in the mountains?

In a time where it's more important than ever that love win, the Sunshine Coast offers the backdrop and doorway to your future. The Coast is one of those places that whispers romance to even the most cynical of our family members. Whether against the soft hues of February sunsets at Davis Bay or in the embrace of midsummer warmth in Garden Bay, we've got the setting and season to celebrate you.

These pages are filled with our community's best – from Langdale to Sechelt to Egmont and over to Powell

River – find those local businesses and services who will go the extra steps to make your long-awaited day a time of happiness. There's no need to leave the Coast for any part of your wedding preparations: we've got stunning venues, beautiful bridal wear, scrumptious food, fabulous photographers, and travel agents who will plan a honeymoon you won't forget.

They and we want to celebrate with you. Celebrate your love on the beautiful Sunshine Coast.

Dine, play and love in a land like no other. Read on. We've got you.

– Coast Reporter



# 4 Tips for a

## WINNING MARRIAGE PROPOSAL



Has the subject of marriage come up in conversations with your sweetheart? Does it feel like the right time to pop the big question? Here are four tips to help you make your proposal unique and unforgettable.

### 1. Think about your personalities

If you or your partner are shy, a public proposal with lots of people watching might not be the best idea. Instead, choose an intimate moment. For example, in the comfort of your home, while taking a walk or during a romantic picnic. If you don't want it to be entirely private, consider including a few of your closest friends to make it meaningful.

### 2. Plan your proposal

Ideally, choose a moment when you won't be too pressed for time to avoid needless stress. While it may seem there's

never an ideal time to propose, it's in your best interest not to rush it.

### 3. Pay attention to your presentation

Even if an engagement ring isn't essential to you, the moment of presentation is the heart and soul of the marriage proposal. Choose the ring carefully, subtly taking note of your partner's tastes while passing a jewelry shop window, for example.

### 4. Consider the element of surprise

Even if you and your partner frequently talk about marriage, the element of surprise is key to a memorable proposal. Make your plans discreetly, and be sure that the loved ones you enlist help keep the secret safe.

Start exploring your area to find the perfect ring and plan the perfect place and time for your marriage proposal.

– Newspaper Toolbox.

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*4 perfect*

**LOCATIONS TO HOLD  
YOUR WEDDING**

*A*re you looking for a wedding venue that reflects your spirit as a couple?  
Here are four venue ideas that may inspire you.

**1. Yacht.**

Space limitations may force you to limit your guest list to your absolute nearest and dearest. However, the fresh air and breathtaking views will ensure your intimate wedding at sea is truly memorable.

**2. Public building.**

The stunning architecture of older buildings lends itself well to the decorum of a wedding. Imagine a couple of book lovers getting married in a stately library or a pair of art lovers tying the knot in the gallery where they had their first date.

**3. Converted industrial building.**

Many old factories and warehouses have been given new lives as event spaces. Although you may need to spend more on decorations to offset the industrial backdrop, the funky surroundings will give your celebration playful energy.

**4. Vineyard or brewery.**

Are you particularly fond of a local brewer or winemaker? A romantic vineyard is perfect for a sophisticated celebration. Go with a casual brewery space for a laid-back vibe.

Don't leave your venue booking to the last minute. Take time this week to explore options near you.

– *Newspaper Toolbox*



Kelly Schuster Photography





# 5 Fresh

## BRIDALWEAR TRENDS FOR 2023



**W**hat you wear as you walk down the aisle is one of the most significant decisions for your wedding day. Do you envision yourself in a classic bridal gown, or do traditional styles feel confining to you? To help you express your unique personality on your big day, 2023 has plenty of fresh design trends to inspire you.

### 1. Something blue

An alternative to classic white, blue is the darling of bridal dress designers for 2023. Look for gowns in shades like periwinkle, ice blue and cornflower.

### 2. The little white dress

If you have a playful spirit, a daring cocktail dress provides ease of movement so you can kick up your heels. Bridal designers offer an array of white party minidresses embellished with ornate details befitting the classic bridal gown.

### 3. Bridal pantsuits

Do you want a look that's less fairy princess but doesn't compromise on the drama? Bridal fashion is making huge strides with striking white heirloom separates. These immaculately tailored suit pieces will easily integrate with your post-wedding wardrobe. You may consider adding romantic flourishes like lace, bows or a tulle train.

### 4. High slits

Picture the classic bridal gown with a flash of femme fatale. An elongating glimpse of the leg can balance the fullness of your dress's silhouette. Wear a delicate strappy sandal to extend your leg line.

### 5. Conscientious choices

If you want to express your values in your gown choice, look for a brand that uses sustainable fabrics or repurposed antique lace. Some designers also contribute portions of their earnings to support environmental and social justice efforts.

Visit your local bridal boutique to explore exciting new bridalwear options.

*Bridal dress rental is becoming an option for brides who prefer to spend their wedding budget on other aspects of the big day. Ask your local bridal boutique if they offer a rental service.*

— Newspaper Toolbox.

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# Our three favourite WATERFALL WEDDING LOCATIONS

– Melissa Tripp, Coastal Weddings & Events

## 1. HOMESITE CREEK WATERFALL

Located in Halfmoon Bay via a brief 10-to-12 minute walk from Highway 101, is one of our favourite waterfall locations on the Sunshine Coast. This location is ideal for your waterfall wedding if you are looking for an adventure wedding and want to be in the heart of nature. The sun filters through the lush green foliage as you walk past lagoons and large rock formations towards the waterfalls. Depending on the season and how adventurous you are, the creek can be crossed to get married with the waterfalls in the background. This location is best in the spring or fall because the water level of the falls is lowest in the dry months of the summer. Unfortunately, there are no toilets or other facilities directly at this location, but it is only a short distance from the quaint harbour of Secret Cove.

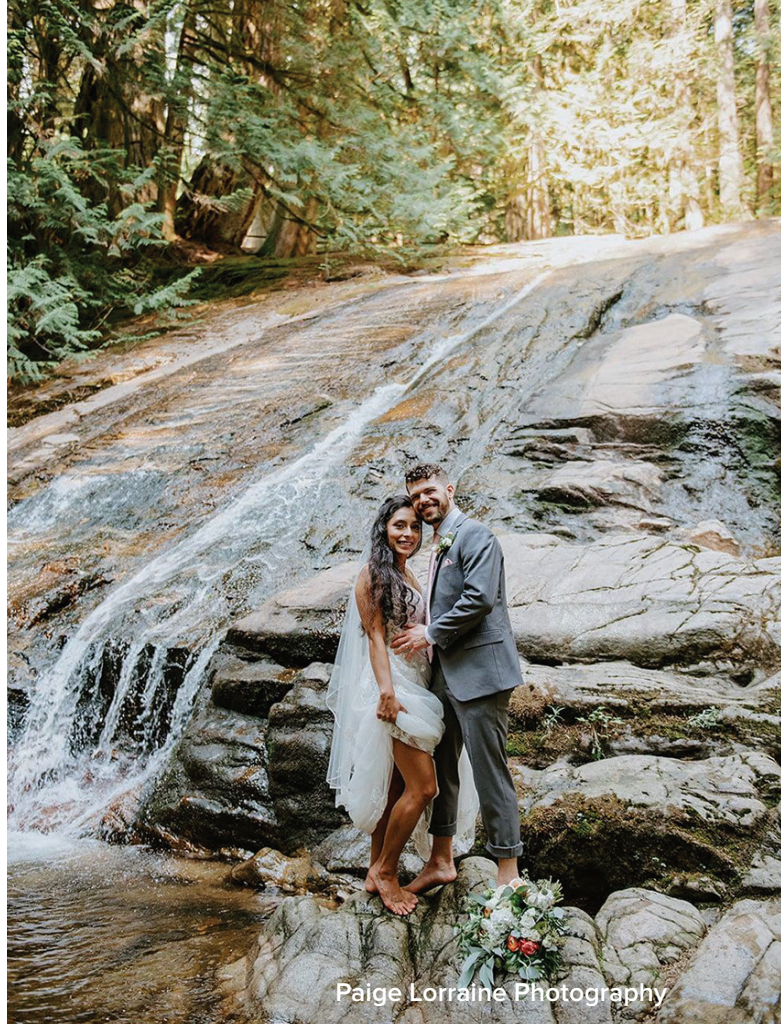


Laura Olsen Photography



## 2. CLIFF GILKER PARK

The Cliff Gilker Park and the Clack Creek waterfall are in Roberts Creek between Gibsons and Sechelt, directly off Highway 101. While there are many West Coast wedding locations to choose from at this park, the most picturesque is near the Clack Creek waterfall, which is a short walk from the large parking lot and has access to a large washroom block and ample parking. The park is popular with locals and can get busy on weekends with dog walkers and families using the attached sports fields and playground. The trails throughout the park are extensive and offer many different photo opportunities for your Sunshine Coast waterfall wedding. If you are not concerned with getting your dress or feet wet, you could easily access the bottom of the waterfall or stay at the fast-flowing top. This waterfall is a great option any time of the year as there is always water flowing through the creek.



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### 3. CHATTERBOX FALLS

Chatterbox Falls is our most recommended adventure elopement location for a waterfall wedding ceremony. The falls' remote location is only accessible by floatplane or boat through one of our travel partners. This waterfall location is stunning, with 2100-meter granite cliffs that frame the 40-meter falls descending into the Princess Louisa Inlet. The falls are a short walk on a very accessible trail from the dock. The flow of water from Loquilt River can vary, and we never know how close you can get before getting wet from the spray of the descending water. Over 100 waterfalls cascade into the Pacific Ocean along the journey to Chatterbox falls from the Sunshine Coast. This is certainly a bucket list trip if you are a waterfall lover!

With endless beaches, forests and majestic waterfalls, the Sunshine Coast is the dream destination wedding location for adventurous couples who wish to be married surrounded by nature.





*For those who love nature and are thinking of planning an elopement, an adventure elopement is right for you!*

*You might be wondering what is an adventure elopement and how does it differ from other elopements and weddings?*

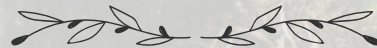
*Follow along where the Coastal Weddings & Events team breaks down the difference.*



## *Adventure elopement*

COUPLE AT AN ALPINE GLACIAL LAKE

– Melissa Tripp, Coastal Weddings & Events



Paige Lorraine Photography

### **What is an elopement?**

An elopement is a marriage ceremony that is typically conducted without the knowledge of the couple's family and friends. Couples who choose to elope customarily only have a wedding ceremony and do not host a reception or celebration. This is in comparison to a micro wedding, intimate wedding, or small wedding. During these types of celebrations, family and friends are included in the ceremony. In addition, there is a small celebration afterward. Frequently these types of weddings can vary in size but are typically are fewer than 50 people.

### **What is an adventure elopement?**

An adventure elopement has similar characteristics to a regular elopement and is typically differentiated by the couple's decision to travel.

Adventure elopements in British Columbia typically originate from the couple's desire to get married in Mother Nature, surrounded by the ocean, forest, or mountains.

### **Adventure elopement ideas**

Can you imagine saying I do at the base of a stunning West Coast waterfall, or on a remote island off the Sunshine Coast? During Sunshine Coast elopements, one will be surrounded by nature every step of the way. From the transportation to the ceremony location. You will be in the heart of some of the Sunshine Coast's premier adventure locations the entire time!

### **How to plan your adventure elopement**

Now you may be wondering how to plan your adventure elopement?

Best planned with a planner, Coastal Weddings & Events, offers adventure elopement packages. We've partnered with some of the best vendors on the Sunshine Coast to provide you with the elopement of your dreams!



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#### What to expect from an adventure elopement?

Coastal Weddings & Events will organize all of the details for your elopement. Including designing breathtaking florals and organizing a champagne toast!

With the help of Sunshine Coast Air, we will fly you and your fiancé to a remote location on the Sunshine Coast. A licensed B.C. marriage commissioner will marry you and your fiancé in an intimate wedding ceremony. After your wedding ceremony, you will enjoy some time with Paige Lorraine Photography for newlywed photos at your elopement location.

Altogether, our adventure elopements on the Sunshine Coast are three-to-five-hour round trips. After your elopement, you will leave feeling relaxed, one with nature and as a married couple!

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Paige Lorraine Photography

# Three things

YOU NEVER THOUGHT OF  
DOING FOR YOUR WEDDING  
THAT INCLUDE A FLOATPLANE

– Selena Bell, *FLY Coastal*

## 1. Not your typical 'destination' wedding

Ever thought about forgetting it all and just eloping? You're not the only one! It has become more and more popular for couples to say "I do" in the most unique ways. Experience the magic of Sunshine Coast and vow forever with your significant other on the shores of a pristine glacial lake. Visualize kissing the smiling face of your partner for the first time as a married couple, literally on top of the world in the backcountry of the Ashlu Mountain Range.

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### 2. Take a breather... up in the air!

Still after that traditional big wedding but don't want to feel disconnected from your partner? One of couple's biggest regrets after their wedding is that they felt they didn't get a lot of time with their beloved (I know, backwards, right?). However, between the ceremony and reception, you can carve out time to take a breath together and do it in style. Start your marriage off against the backdrop of the beautiful sandy beaches of Thormanby Island. Your chariot awaits for you two, starry-eyed lovers to soak up the moment together on a breathtaking tour swooping along the island-dotted coast.

### 3. Grand entrance or exit ...

either way, make it splashy!

Your maid of honour is helping drape out the train of your dress before making your debut and you hear a plane loop overhead and land at the water's edge where the ceremony is about to take place. You gasp in delight as you witness your soon to be husband's exuberant grin as he jumps out of a seaplane and takes his place at the head of the aisle. (We can't forget the men's entrance, can we???) Or if you are both looking to be a part of an epic exit, have the aircraft waiting to whisk you away from the ceremony and stop over at a Ruby Lake for some amazing golden hour photos before bringing you back for the festivities!

Whether you dream of eloping on a secluded alpine lake or want to take an unforgettable private moment with your partner, or to make a bold entrance to kick off you vows, there are local Sunshine Coast aviation companies that would love to help make it a reality!







# Here are our Top five tips

To Ensure Things Go  
Smoothly On Your  
Wedding Day



**1. Remember that ferries are unpredictable.** They run late. They fill up quickly and people have to wait to take a later ferry. Make sure that you or invited guests who must take a ferry have adequate time to get from the Lower Mainland to the Sunshine Coast even if there is a delay or other problem. Reservations are advisable and booking a float plane over might be wise if there are time constraints.

**2. Mother Nature may not cooperate for your dream day.** Often couples who marry on the Sunshine Coast dream of a beach wedding. There are plenty of beautiful spots overlooking the Pacific Ocean to exchange your vows, but high and low tides are variable. You can check the tide tables to get an idea of high and low tide for that special day but just like weather forecasts, tidal tables are not guarantees. Be sure to monitor the tides and have a back-up plan.

**3. Formal shoes make walking on sand, traipsing along forest trails, or standing on mossy logs tricky.** While you can stage some truly incredible wedding photographs in nature on the Sunshine Coast, remember to bring appropriate footwear so you can transition from the ceremony to the photograph location to the reception without any major mishaps. (We routinely carry the change of shoes along from spot to spot for clients!)



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**4. Save time and money:** Shop locally. You will not always get the best prices or inspired gift ideas online. Take time to peruse shops and artisans on the Coast for wedding favour ideas and things to add to welcome baskets or for the perfect gift to the wedding party. You're supporting the local economy when you shop locally, plus you can find one-of-a-kind without the shipping fees!

**5. Make time for each other.** Often times couples get so wrapped up in planning details they lose focus on what really matters – their relationship. Schedule even just a few hours of alone time so you can explore the beautiful Sunshine Coast together. Escaping the stress and focusing on romance can be as simple as taking a quiet walk on a local hiking trail, watching the sun set while you sip a hot chocolate, or searching art studios for a little something for your house to celebrate your new life as a married couple.

– Newspaper Toolbox.



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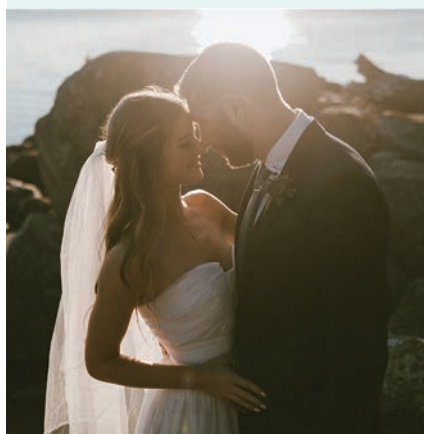
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Planning a wedding is a full-time job. Have you considered hiring a professional wedding planner? Here are a few ways a pro can make your wedding day perfect for you and enjoyable for your loved ones.

- **Schedule and budget.** Wedding planners have timetables and finances down to a science. They'll relieve you of all uncertainty, from timing your invitations to ordering the cake.
- **Insider knowledge.** A pro knows which vendors best suit your preferences and needs. Moreover, since your planner brings them steady business, you may get better deals.
- **Personality management.** You need someone to advocate for you when interpersonal conflicts arise. Be it the guest list, the seating plan or a problematic relative, your wedding planner will handle uncomfortable conversations for you.
- **Quality control.** A pro ensures nothing gets overlooked. They may also have unique and fun ideas you may not have thought of.

Investing in a professional may save you money on your overall wedding costs. Talk to a wedding planner near you to relax and enjoy your special day.

More reasons to seek professional help for a great day  
My wedding photos are embarrassing.

"My wedding photos are a disaster. The angles, lighting, framing, poses and hues are all wrong. I should have hired a professional photographer."



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**My wedding videos leave a lot to be desired.**

"We asked a friend to film our wedding on his cellphone. Unfortunately, the video quality is questionable, and the sound is distorted. I should have hired a real videographer."

**Blisters ruined the best day of my life.**

"My feet started to hurt during the ceremony, and the pain became unbearable during the reception. I should have chosen comfortable shoes and brought another pair for dancing."

**The dancefloor was empty by 9 p.m.**

"I made a playlist for the reception, thinking it was enough. The atmosphere was lacking, and most of the guests left early. I should have hired a DJ to get the party going."

**I was exhausted from cooking everything myself.**

"I decided to cook the entire wedding meal myself. Big mistake! I spent hours preparing everything and was exhausted on my big day. I should have hired a caterer."

**My wedding flowers were a flop.**

"A well-meaning family member told me they would take care of the floral arrangements. The corsages were unsightly, and the bouquet was visibly wilted. I should have used an experienced florist."

**I looked like I was going to a costume party.**

"A friend of mine offered to do my hair and makeup for the big day. When I saw my reflection in the mirror, it looked nothing like I'd hoped. I should have made an appointment with experts."

**I was overwhelmed with planning.**

"Finding a venue, booking equipment, hiring a caterer, all on top of my already busy schedule, I was stressed to the max. I should have hired a wedding planner."

— *Newspaper Toolbox*





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